

THIRSK  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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*Annual Report*  
*of the*  
*Medical Officer of Health*  
*for the year 1956.*

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J. Bell, Printer, Thirsk.



# THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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## Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1956.

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MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1956, a favourable year from a Health point of view. We had no serious notifiable disease and there was no epidemic. Much good work has been done in building and sewaging.

I would again record my appreciation of the very willing help given me by our Clerk, the Public Health Inspectors and all the other Members of the Public Health Staff.

### Public Health Staff.

Clerk	...	...	W. A. Wilkinson
Public Health Inspector	...	F. Metcalfe, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Meat and Other Foods.	
Additional Public Health Inspector	...	R. M. Sharphouse, A.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I., A.I. Hsg.	
Medical Officer of Health (Part time)	W. G. MacArthur, M.B., Ch.B.		

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### Section A.

#### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	71,544
Estimated residential population (Civilians)		R.G.'s figures	...	14,510
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,049
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£137,442
Sum represented by a penny rate	..	...	...	£310

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Total	Male	Female	
<b>Live Births—</b>	213	103	110	Birth rate per 1,000 of the population 14.68
Legitimate	208	101	107	
Illegitimate	5	2	3	
<b>Still Births —</b>	1	1	-	Rate per 1,000 of all Births 0.68
Legitimate	1	1	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
<b>Deaths registered in the Area</b>	146	69	77	Death rate per 1,000 of the population 10.06
<b>Deaths of Infants under</b>				
4 weeks of age	2	2	-	
Legitimate	2	2	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
<b>Deaths of Infants under</b>				
1 year of age	2	2	-	
Legitimate	2	2	-	
Illegitimate	-	-	-	
Death rate of all Infants per 1,000 live births				9.38
Death rate Legitimate per 1,000 legitimate live births				9.61
Death rate Illegitimate per 1,000 live births				Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) (Heading 10-14 inclusive)				8
Deaths from Measles (all ages) (Heading 8)				Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) (Heading 5)				Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages) (Heading 27)				Nil

### SECTION B.

#### 1. Public Health Staff.

See above.

#### 2. (a) Laboratory Facilities.

As in previous years a direct approach can be made to York and Northallerton, a very satisfactory arrangement.

#### (b) Ambulance Facilities.

Under the County Medical Officer. Ambulances are based at Thirsk, which is a great boon to our area.

#### (c) Nursing in the Home.

As before and under supervision of the County Medical Officer

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.

As in previous years under the York A and Tadcaster Management Committee. Surgical, Ear, Nose and Throat obstetrical and ophthalmic.

An infant Welfare Clinic under the County Medical Officer.

(e) Hospitals.

There is no Hospital administered by our Rural Council.

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SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.

<i>Disease</i>	<i>Total Cases</i>	<i>Admitted to Hospitals</i>	<i>Total Deaths.</i>
Scarlet Fever	13	1	Nil
Measles	5	-	-
Meningococcal Meningitis	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Pneumonia	3	-	-

Notifiable Diseases during the year.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Scarlet Fever</i>	<i>Measles</i>	<i>Pneumonia</i>	<i>Meningitis</i>	<i>Whooping Cough</i>
1-2	-	1	-	-	-
2-3	-	-	-	-	-
3-4	2	-	-	-	-
4-5	2	-	-	-	-
5-10	5	4	-	-	-
10-15	2	-	-	-	-
15-25	2	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	2	-	-
45-65	-	-	1	-	-
65 & over	-	-	-	-	-
Total	13	5	3	-	-

(a) Presentation of Blindness. No action taken.

(b) Tuberculosis.

Age Period	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
1-5								
5-10								
10-15								
15-25	1		1					
25-35								
35-45						1		
45-55								
55-65		2						
65 & over	1							
Total	2	2	1	-	-	1	-	-

Causes of Death in Thirsk Rural District in 1956.

Causes of Death.		Males	Females
1.	Tuberculosis Respiratory	-	1
10.	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	1
11.	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	1	-
12.	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	1
13.	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	2
14.	Other Malignant & Lymphatic Neoplasms	5	4
15.	Leukaemia	1	-
16.	Diabetes	-	-
17.	Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	16
18.	Coronary disease, Angina	11	7
19.	Hypertension with Heart Disease	2	2
20.	Other Heart Diseases	16	21
21.	Other Circulatory Diseases	3	6
22.	Influenza	1	2
23.	Pneumonia	5	1
24.	Bronchitis	4	2
25.	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-
26.	Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum	1	-
28.	Nephritis & Nephrosis	-	1
29.	Hyperplasia of Prostate	1	-
30.	Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-

31.	Congenital Malformations	-	-
32.	Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	7	8
33.	Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	-
34.	All other Accidents	-	1
35.	Suicide	-	1
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	Total	69	77

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MACARTHUR,

Medical Officer of Health.

## THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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### Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector for the Year 1956.

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MR. CHAIRMAN & MEMBERS,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1956.

The main feature of the year's progress was the provision of sewers in the villages of South Kilvington, Carlton Miniott and Sandhutton as extension to the Thirsk & Sowerby Sewage Disposal Scheme, and despite difficulties encountered with running sand and water, the work was nearing completion by the end of the year.

In the early part of the year the re constructed Public Conveniences were re-opened.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Members,

Your obedient Servant,

F. METCALFE,

Surveyor & Public Health Inspector.

### Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

#### Water Supply.

The Thirsk District Water Company supply much of the water in Thirsk and the surrounding area. Their water is derived from deep springs in the Kepwick area, which water is hard, also soft moorland water from a reservoir at Boltby. Both waters are mixed and chlorinated at Felixkirk, before delivery to Thirsk so as to ensure a water of satisfactory hardness and wholesomeness for consumption.

The Council own four water undertakings, namely at Knayton and Kilburn (springs) and at Langthorpe and Pickhill (Bore-holes).

Water is also purchased from the Thirsk District Water Company in bulk.



From information obtained from the Company in June water services in the Council's area is summarised as follows :

1. **Total number of houses** 3991
2. **Publicly owned piped water supplies**
  - (a) Number of houses with individual supply 3546
  - (b) Number of houses sharing such supply 207
3. **Privately owned piped water supplies**
  - Number of houses with individual supply 129
4. Number of houses without a piped supply 109
5. Number of isolated properties without a piped water supply owing to high cost approx. 100

#### **Knayton Water Supply.**

Following adverse samples of the land spring water which had been added in 1955 to augment the failing springs of this supply, it was considered advisable to take out this water and endeavour to trace its source, impound and pipe to the reservoir in sealed pipes

Excavating work was carried out with the assistance of a Water Diviner, but the actual source could not be located and as the existing springs were again constant in supply, the work was discontinued and the Thirsk District Water Company pressed to formulate a scheme for the village.

#### **Thirlby Water Supply.**

During the year the Thirsk District Water Company commenced the laying of water mains, being an extension to the Boltby mains.

#### **Water Samples.**

Samples submitted for examination :—

	<i>No taken. Satisfactory. Unsatisfactory.</i>		
(1) Bacteriological Examination	24	17	7
(2) Chemical Analysis	4	2	2

#### **Drainage and Sewerage.**

The laying of sewers was commenced in South Kilvington, Carlton Miniott and Sandhutton as Part II of the Thirsk and Sowerby Sewage Disposal Works.

New sewers were laid & small sewage disposal works provided in the village of Catton where considerable sanitary improvement works had been carried out under the Housing Act. The existing sewers were unsatisfactory for soil drainage and discharged untreated sewage into the river.

Many of the villages still lack proper sewers and sewage disposal arrangements. Village tanks are quite inadequate for the treatment of W.C. drainage and each year sees additional water closets being added to the sewers with consequent further pollution to ditches and water courses.

### **Closet Accommodation.**

During the year a total of 135 conversions of privy middens and/or pails to the water carriage system were carried out.

33 additional water closets were provided to old property and 11 water closets to new houses.

The Council allow a Grant of up to £9 for each closet conversion and many property owners have carried out conversions under this Scheme.

Where sewers, sewage disposal and water supplies are available, owners are asked to effect conversions, with exception to older properties which are liable to action under the Housing Acts.

Much of the outlying area is still served by privies or pails and conversions cannot be required owing to the lack of proper sewage disposal facilities.

The estimated number and various types of closets at the end of the year was :—

Privy Middens 865 ' Pail Closets 883 ;  
Water Closets 2288.

### **Public Cleansing**

#### **Refuse Collection.**

This is carried out over the whole of the area by our own men and vehicles. All receptacles are emptied, including cesspools. Dustbins and pails are emptied once weekly and fixed receptacles monthly, excepting at isolated premises which are cleared on request.

More isolated premises are now however providing dustbins, which will mean regular collection of the household refuse to avoid inconvenience to householders and nuisance from the accumulated refuse.

Such additional collections will increase the cost of the work.

Trade refuse is also collected from shops in Thirsk and Sowerby, a small annual charge being made for such service.

The Market Place is swept after the weekly Monday market and paper and litter cleared on the Sunday mornings during the summer months.

### **Refuse Disposal.**

The collected refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping in a disused gravel pit in Sowerby, purchased by the Council and so ensuring full control.

All refuse arriving at the tip is covered with soil, a Chaseside Digger being used for this purpose, thus tending to prevent nuisance from smell, besides keeping the tip in a tidy and clean condition and free from fires.

### **Public Conveniences.**

The existing block of Public Conveniences situated in the Thirsk Market Place were re-opened following extensions and improvements.

The whole of the underground part is now arranged for Men, with a floor above entered at ground level, for Women.

Turnstiles are provided to each floor for access to the Water Closets and wash basins.

Paper towels and soap are provided to each block of wash basins, these are supplied free to encourage personal hygiene.

The premises have been generally modernised and new fittings installed, they are open day and night and with the increased W.C. accommodation now provided, together with the provision of washing facilities, they should prove a boon to the many 'bus parties and other visitors to the town.

### **Tents, Vans and Sheds.**

There are two licensed camping sites in the area for the accommodation of trailer vans. There are other individual licensed sites for Caravans, which are chiefly used during the summer months for holiday purposes.

### **Sale of Scrap Metal and Marine Store Dealers.**

There are only five persons now on the register.

### **Pets Act.**

Only two persons are registered under this Act.

### **Rodent Control.**

The Council employs one part-time Rodent Operator for duties under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act.

### **Petroleum Acts.**

There are 68 persons licensed for the storage of petrol which includes 22 filling stations.

### **National Assistance Act.**

Court action was necessary during the year to effect the removal of a woman living alone in need of care and attention.

### **Building Bye-laws.**

During the year 202 plans were deposited for consideration under the Building Bye-laws namely :—

58 in respect of Closet conversions or additions : 63 for alterations and extensions to houses including bathrooms : 28 agricultural : 21 for small garages : 7 green-houses and garden sheds : 17 for the erection of new houses, including Council houses, and others on alterations to Shops etc.

### **New Houses Erected.**

By the Local Authority	..	4
By Private Persons	...	7

## **INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.**

### **Milk.**

4 distributors of Milk are registered by the Council under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949. Only one has dairy premises where equipment is installed for clearing, sterilizing and the bottling and capping by Mechanical means.

The 4 distributors are also licensed for the retail sale of designated milks.

## Meat.

11 Private Slaughterhouses are licensed, namely five in Thirsk and six in the district. 30 Slaughtermen's Licences were issued.

There is no public slaughterhouse.

412 visits to slaughterhouses were made during the year of which 390 were for the inspection of meat.

In all, 1559 carcasses were examined.

Other duties prevent ante-mortem inspection of the animals and indeed it is difficult to arrange inspections immediately after slaughter.

The main slaughtering is on a Tuesday, both in Thirsk and also in the district, when every effort is made to examine all carcasses that day. Slaughtering also takes place on other days of the week.

## Butchers.

There are 13 butchers in the area, six in Thirsk and seven in the district.

## Meat Inspection

Carcasses and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excluding Cows. Calves. Cows.			Sheep and Pigs. Horses. Lambs.		
Number inspected	511	1	6	632	409	Nil
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci.</i>						
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	1	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	13	—	—	1	1	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	2.74	—	—	.3	.24	—

## *Tuberculosis only.*

Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	8	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with						



Tuberculosis	1.56	—	—	—	.25	—
Cystiscercosis.	No evidence.					

### Disposal of Unsound Meat.

Whole carcasses are disposed of to fat refineries who collect at the premises concerned, the carcasses being stashed before release.

Offals and trimmings are buried at the refuse disposal tip.

### Other Foods.

There are about 90 food premises in Thirsk and District, classified as :—

Wet fish shops, including poultry	...	...	2
Fried Fish and Chips	...	...	7
Fruit and Vegetables	...	...	5
Bread, Cakes and Confectionery	...	...	6
Sweets	...	...	8
(also the 2 Thirsk Cinemas trade in sweets and ice-cream)			
Butchers Shops	...	...	11
General Groceries	...	...	49

The district foodshops or village stores sell all kinds of food, but bread, cakes and meat products are usually to order.

Pre-packed ice-cream and other iced confectionary is sold from many of the village shops.

### Ice-Cream.

33 premises are registered for the sale of pre-packed ice-cream, including 3 under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955.

In only one case is ice-cream manufactured on the premises, the hot-mix method being used.

### Food Preparing Premises.

Bake-houses 8; Sausages and other meat products 10; Fish and Chips 7; Cafes 14; Canteens 10; Restaurant Kitchens (including Hotels) 21.

### Food Stalls.

At the weekly market, fruit and vegetable stalls predominate, also there is one fish stall, also stalls selling biscuits, sweets etc.

Hawkers vans visit the villages trading in meat, bread, cakes and general pre-packed foods.

## Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955.

A summary of the provisions of these Regulations was sent to all occupiers of food premises, together with posters for exhibiting where open food was handled.

This has resulted in a number of improvements being effected, such as protection to open foods in shops by plastic covers and/or display cabinets, provision of gas or electric units for supply of constant hot water, provision of accommodation for clothing etc.

Considerable work is required under these Regulations premises require frequent inspections, particularly bake-houses, cafes, restaurant kitchens and food preparing premises to ensure compliance with the Regulations and protection to the public.

### Unsound Food.

29 Certificates were issued in respect of preserved foods surrendered by local tradesmen and found to be unfit for human consumption. A number of the condemnation certificates given were for tinned cooked ham which on examination was found to be decomposed or otherwise unsatisfactory for human consumption.

### Sanitary Inspection of the Area

Summary of Inspections made :--

Public Health Act	...	760
Factories Act	...	11
Petroleum Act	...	6
Food & Drugs Act	...	475
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		1252

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## HOUSING.

### Erection of Council Houses.

Work on the Norby Housing Scheme progressed steadily, ten houses of the first stage of the project being almost complete by the year end.

A tender was obtained for a block of twelve three storey flats on the same site and the work put in hand.

Preparations were made for the erection of four Old Aged Persons Bungalows on the Langthorpe Housing Site, and a plot of land was negotiated for at Knayton, where the Council intends to erect a block of four houses.

### ACTION UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS.

### **Housing Act, 1936, and Amendments.**

Action to deal with individual unfit houses continued on a limited scale as in previous years, several properties being dealt with under Section 11 for demolition or closure.

The first major step in the post-war drive to deal with bad housing conditions in the district was made possible by the progress on the Norby Housing Site. The whole of the Norby area was surveyed, and every house inspected. 49 houses were found unfit, largely because of lack of amenities, dampness and bad arrangement on site. From the results of this survey the Council decided that the best method of dealing with the conditions in the area lying North of the Public House was by the demolition of all the buildings in the area.

Clearance Areas were made under Section 25 in respect of 48 houses and 1 house was dealt with as an individual unfit house. A Compulsory Purchase Order was then made on the whole area concerned, taking in altogether 73 properties and adjoining land.

### **Housing Act, 1949.**

The Council's policy of giving grants under the Housing Act, 1949, has encouraged private owners to bring their property up to standard.

The village of Catton, where housing conditions were generally of a very low standard, is gradually being improved and the Council should soon be relieved of its responsibilities to secure decent housing conditions in this particular village.

Catton is the second village in the area to take full advantage of the grants under the Housing Act, 1949, and again the Council has provided a small sewage disposal scheme to obviate the necessity for individual septic tanks.

### **Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954.**

As last year, little advantage was taken of the provisions of this Act, and the overall improvement of houses has not been significantly affected by the powers given to owners to increase rents providing repairs were carried out.

### **Housing (Financial and Miscellaneous) Provisions**

#### **Act, 1946.**

The Council accepts the principle of allowing grants for private owners to erect houses for farm workers where it is not convenient for the Council to build houses themselves.









